

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

For all the latest info...

Vernon Hills
Events Hotline

367-3725

or

www.vernonhills.org/events



Mike Marquardt Appointed to Village Board

During the May 4 meeting of the Village Board, Village President Roger Byrne announced his selection of Michael Marquardt as Trustee. That appointment, which was unanimously approved by the Board, fills the position vacated by Stephanie Weil, who resigned in January.

“Mike Marquardt brings a long history of involvement in the Village,” notes Mayor Byrne. “He and his wife Ina have been involved since the beginning with Summer Celebration, a well as many other local activities.”

Marquardt brings extensive business background, which includes experience as an auto dealer and in commercial real estate. He will serve until the April 2005 general election.

PHOTO AT LEFT: Roger Byrne congratulates newly sworn trustee Michael Marquardt during the May 4 meeting of the Village Board.



Say NO to Fireworks

The use and possession of fireworks in Illinois is illegal, and Illinois law DOES NOT make an exception for the July 4th holiday. “Fireworks” includes firecrackers, cherry bombs, M-80s, bottle rockets, Roman candles — and sparklers. If you have questions, call the Police Department at 847-362-4449. *Thank you in advance for helping to make it a safe July 4th holiday!*

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Farmers Market Opens May 26

Start a new mid-week habit and visit the **Vernon Hills Community Harvest Farmers Market**. Each Wednesday morning, vendors will set up in the Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn parking lot just north of the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Route 60. The event is scheduled to run each week through October 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Select fresh produce, cut flowers and plants — or enjoy the Westfield hospitality tent showcasing Vernon Hills restaurants. Each week, the Market will also spotlight a local nonprofit organization. To find out how your nonprofit can get involved, contact the Village Hall at 847-367-3700. Special thanks to Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn for sponsoring this event.

Vernon Hills
Community Harvest
Farmers Market



Wednesday Mornings
7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Northwest corner of Rt. 60
& Milwaukee Ave.

From the Mayor...

The Village has passed its 2004-05 budget. This year required a lot of difficult decisions and serious belt tightening. Vernon Hills is an anomaly in that we do not levy a Village **Property Tax**, but still provide a wide range of services. In fact, \$9 million of our \$17.5 million operating budget is funded by sales tax, and another \$1.3 million by state income tax.

However, over the past three years, sales tax generated in Vernon Hills has been flat and our portion of the State's Income Tax has declined. Therefore, we worked diligently to reduce, eliminate, and defer expenditures on a multitude of items to cover a nearly \$2 million shortfall. (A more detailed budget discussion is being developed to air on Cable Channel 4. Exact schedules and budget information will be posted at www.vernonhills.org.)

As a Board, we understand that these are tough times. In fact, other area property taxes have risen sharply. This year, our main objective was to not pass on the operating deficit to you, the homeowners and businesses, without first reviewing all expenditures. We accomplished this task with a 93% reduction in expenditures versus only a 7% increase in revenues. The following decisions were reached:

- Eliminate several vacant staff positions
- Reduce Summer Celebration to 4 days
- Eliminate New Years Eve fireworks
- Delay replacement of several vehicles
- Scale back road rehab and capital budget
- Discontinue the Village's yard waste collection subsidy starting in Spring 2005

During the current fiscal year we will continue to review operations, including staffing levels and ways to fairly charge for services. We will continue to work with other entities on providing funds for services and seek development of key parcels throughout the Village. It is our sincere hope that as our economy rebounds, so will our revenues, and that we can continue to provide our residents and businesses with high levels of service.

Roger L. Byrne

Metra Station Renovations Begin

Metra plans to add a second track through Vernon Hills, including building a new inbound commuter platform at the Vernon Hills Metra Station. Work has begun on the new platform, which will be nearly 600 feet long, and feature a warming shelter, windscreen, and canopy roof. Crews will install a pedestrian crossing to the platform as well as a stairway down to the Sullivan Woods Bike Path.

Once the new inbound platform is completed, Metra will begin work on the existing platform. The plan is to peel back the canopy and pavers, install the new track, and re-establish the pavers and canopy. All platform work is expected to be completed by early 2005.

We apologize for any inconvenience and ask that everyone take extra care and time

to accommodate the construction. More information and site plans are available at Village Hall. Direct questions to Evan Teich at evant@vhills.org or 847-918-3558.

Watch for Crossing Closures

Road closures at several major rail crossings are anticipated throughout the area this summer as Metra crews work to prepare for the new second track. Crews will move northward up the Wisconsin Central line, working approximately two weeks at each crossing. Crossings that will be affected include Deerfield Parkway, Aptakisic, Port Clinton, Route 45, Butterfield, Route 60, and Allanson. As schedules are determined, Metra will post signs at the affected crossings. Information will be posted at www.vernonhills.org and released through the Broadcast Email system (*see below*).

From the Board Room...

Committees, Cars and Sidewalk Cracks

Here are some topics of discussion during recent Village Board meetings. Meetings are the first and third Tuesday each month, and rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4.

- The Village's new **Environmental Committee** represents the combined Citizens' Environmental Advisory and Forestry committees. The new group will be involved in activities such as Tree City USA, wetlands preservation, environmental education, and restoration of the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex. Residents wishing to serve are urged to send a letter outlining their qualifications to President Roger Byrne at Village Hall or via email to lynnd@vhills.org.
- Discussions continue regarding options for reducing **train horn noise**.
- The board recently approved plans for a **vintage car cruise**, to be held Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the east parking lot of Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn. The event is expected to run through the summer.

- Due to budget constraints, this year's Village **road and sidewalk rehabilitation program** will focus on fixing hazardous areas, rather than larger efforts. If you see an area that may need attention, please complete a "Citizen Inquiry Form" found at www.vernonhills.org/forms.

- IDOT expects to complete **Milwaukee Avenue** work within the next few weeks.
- On **Route 22** in Lincolnshire, there is no additional work scheduled as IDOT is waiting for state funding decisions.
- The board heard from Police Chief Mark Fleischhauer, who noted that officers have been working to help resolve issues with **Andre's Jewelers** since the owner fell ill.
- Work is expected to begin soon on **River's Edge Condominiums**, located on Milwaukee Avenue near Woodbine Lane.
- Staff encourages residents and businesses to sign up for the new **Broadcast Email notification system**, which will provide timely information on things such as road closures. Sign up at www.vernonhills.org.

Pet Microchips at PD on June 26

The Vernon Hills Police Department, 754 Lakeview Parkway, will host a pet microchip clinic on Saturday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. Representatives from Lake County Animal Control will be on hand to inject the animals with an American Veterinary Identification Device (AVID). The fee for each animal is \$10.

If you own a dog or cat, you are probably familiar with this microchip technology, which involves injecting a tiny microchip under the skin of a pet. The chip provides

an identification number, and a method of permanent identification that cannot be lost, altered, or removed.

Microchipping is a safe and inexpensive way to safeguard your pet. We encourage all pet owners to take advantage of this opportunity. No appointments are needed for the clinic, but rather residents will be assisted on a first come, first served basis. Please note that all animals must be at least four months old. All dogs must be leashed and cats must be in a carrier. For details, call 847-247-4888.

A Word on Inoperable Vehicles

The Police Department frequently receives complaints regarding inoperable and abandoned vehicles. Officers investigate each complaint thoroughly. In fact, as part of their daily routine, our Community Service Officers investigate every situation they see. We'd like to take this opportunity to familiarize residents with the Village's inoperable vehicle ordinance.

The ordinance's definition for an inoperable motor vehicle is comprehensive and too lengthy to include here. Basically, a vehicle is considered inoperable if for seven days the license plates or parts of the vehicle have been removed or altered

so that the vehicle is incapable of being driven under its own power.

When any vehicle on public or private property is deemed inoperable, the owner is given a notice to remove it within seven days. If it is not moved, the police department may have it removed at the owner's expense. The owner could also be cited and required to appear in court. Call the Department at 847-362-4449 if you have any questions.



**Vacation House Watch
847-362-4449**

Blue Line for the Front Line



The Police Department has implemented a program called "Blue Line for the Front Line," in which we have adopted two military units serving in Iraq. We're looking for assistance from businesses and civic groups who would be willing to help us provide care packages of comfort items to the US Army National Guard 106th Aviation Battalion and the US Marine Corps HMH 462. It is hoped that by providing such items as magazines, hard candy, board games, CDs and the like, we can help maintain the morale of those serving our country overseas.

The Police Department has sponsored the first month, and has already sent several care packages to our troops. We are now looking for other organizations and individuals willing to help with this effort. Organizations might consider sponsoring one unit (75 to 100 men and women) for one month.

If you are interested in being involved with this program, please view the Police Department web page at www.vhpd.com, or call 847-247-4888. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

IN BUSINESS...

Shopping in town supports your community — one percent of all sales tax revenue comes back to our Village. With that in mind, here are a few business openings taken from recent permit requests:

- Allstate Insurance, 977 Lakeview Pkwy.
- American Family Insurance, 139 Townline Rd.
- Jimmy John's, 325 Milwaukee, #150
- Life Sport Physical Therapy, Rivertree Ct.
- Northshore Health & Wellness, 250 E. Center Drive, #201
- AFun Timeout, 130 Hawthorn Center
- Vernon Hills Police Sub-station, 154 Hawthorn Center
- Pegasus Gallery has relocated to 718 Hawthorn Center
- New kiosks at Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn include:
 - Chicago Custom Cabinets
 - Always Cellular
 - Maria's Garden and Gifts
 - Extremedy
 - Perfume Place
 - Eclectic Junction
 - Gadgets

Thanks, Cultural Partners

Cultural Partners support our community by helping fund such special events as Arbortheater Concerts, fireworks, and Summer Celebration. So far this year, the following organizations have signed on as Partners. (If you'd like to join them, contact Lisa Fischbach at 847-918-3562.)

American Hotel Register	CDW
Washington Mutual	Target
Westfield Shoppingtown	AMLI
Bradford Real Estate	Civiltech

Thanks for Summer Events

Special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, organizations, and businesses who help plan, support, and implement our fantastic family-friendly summer events. Without you, it wouldn't happen. Because of you, we are a community of friends.

Arbortheater Concerts

All Arbortheater Concerts begin at 7 p.m., while the movie begins at dusk. Concerts, which are free and open to the public, are held at the Vernon Hills Memorial Arbortheater, 50 N. Fairway Drive, just past the intersection of Lakeview and Fairway Drive. In case of inclement weather, concerts will be held at the Vernon Hills Park District Sullivan Center, 635 N. Aspen Drive. *If your local non-profit group is interested in selling concessions during the concerts, please call 847-816-3208.*

- June 12 Jammin' Daddies**
Local legends perform '70s & '80s favorites
- June 17 Soul Circus**
Classic R&B with rock-solid vocals
- July 1 Saturday June Band**
Original tunes and '60s favorites
- July 10 Gravity Down**
Alternative rock and pop
- July 24 White Saddle Band**
A little country, and a little rock
- July 29 Hladish & Brown**
Guitar-driven "new" country
- August 14 Big Screen Outdoor Movie: "George of the Jungle"**
Starts at dusk — approximately 8:00 p.m.

4th of July Festivities Sunday, July 4th



Note: The north half of Deerpath Drive will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 11 a.m.

• Bike Decorating Contest — 8 a.m.

Girls and boys ages 4 to 12 — show your creativity by decorating your bike, trike or wagon! Two first-place winners earn a trophy and ribbon, and all entrants get a ribbon and gift certificate. Kids may ride in the parade, if accompanied by an adult. **Contest location:** Corner of Deerpath and Atrium Drives near the Countryside Fire station.

• Parade — 9 a.m.

This wonderful tradition winds through the Deerpath subdivision, starting at Deerpath and Atrium Drives, moving south to Sullivan, west to Aspen, north to Hawthorn Elementary South. And don't forget your candy-catching bags and parade etiquette—Veterans ask that we stand, remove hats, and acknowledge the opening color guard. (If you'd like to take part, register at www.vernonhills.org.)

• Evening Entertainment — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Free music by JP and the Cats at Century Park, two blocks north of Route 60 at Lakeview Parkway. Reminder: No alcohol is permitted in the park.

• Fireworks — 9:30 p.m.

The closest view is from Century Park, north of Route 60 at Lakeview Parkway.



Summer Celebration: July 15 - 18

From June 15 to 18, join the Summer Celebration fun at Century Park, two blocks north of Route 60 at Lakeview Parkway. You'll enjoy **carnival rides** by Salerno's Windy City Amusement, American Legion **Bingo**, **art projects** for the kids, **Food Fest** featuring many of our fine local eateries, and a **Beer Garden**. The highlight — **top-notch FREE concerts** by *Eddie Money*, *Night Ranger* and more. Shuttles will be available from the upper Westfield Shoppingtown lot near Marshall Field's. For updated info, check www.vernonhills.org or call the hotline at 847-367-3725. Volunteers are crucial for this event. If you would like to lend a hand, please call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.



Night Ranger (left) and Eddie Money (right) are two of the headliner acts at Summer Celebration.

Thursday, July 15

Midway Opens . . .6 p.m.
Person to Person . . .7 p.m.
Fireworks9:15 p.m.
Grounds Close . . .10 p.m.

Friday, July 16

Midway Opens . . .6 p.m.
Bare Bones7 p.m.
Night Ranger9 p.m.
Grounds Close . . .12 a.m.

Saturday, July 17

Midway Opens . . .1 p.m.
Infinity7 p.m.
Eddie Money9 p.m.
Grounds Close . . .12 a.m.

Sunday, July 18

Midway Opens . . .1 p.m.
The Buckingham . . .8 p.m.
Grounds Close . . .10 p.m.

Entertainment subject to change without notice. No alcohol, food or other beverages may be brought into the park. Please, no dogs or other pets on the grounds.

GLMV Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society's local Relay for Life will be held **June 5-6** at Mundelein High School. This effort is spearheaded by the GLMV Chamber, and covers Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, and Vernon Hills. This GLMV event has become one of the state's largest, raising more than \$1.2 million over the past five years. To sign up a team, call the American Cancer Society at 847-317-0025.

Chamber Golf Outing

The GLMV Chamber Golf Outing will be **August 4** at White Deer Run. Call the Chamber at 847-680-0750.

Fire Station Dedication

Countryside Fire invites you to a dedication of the remodeled Deerpath station. The event is set for 2 p.m. on **June 27**. Call 847-367-5511.

Brain Tumor Golf Outing

On **August 14**, the Vernon Hills Golf Course will host a golf scramble to benefit the American Brain Tumor Association. Call 847-680-9310.

Park District Info

The Park District has implemented a new **weather hotline**. Call 847-996-6616 for weather and program status. Mark your calendar for **Summer Splash** on August 6 and the **Aquatic Center Dive-In Movie** on August 20. For details, call 847-996-6800 or check www.vhparkdistrict.org.

Vernon Hills Pageant

Miss Vernon Hills Liz Rutkowski, Junior Miss Christina Chaplin, and Little Miss Madeline Lasson invite you to attend the 2004 Vernon Hills Pageant...

When: Monday, June 21 at 7 p.m.

Where: Vernon Hills High School, 145 N. Lakeview Parkway

Best wishes to all participants!

Cuneo Museum Presents...

During June, visitors to the Cuneo Museum and Gardens, 1350 Milwaukee Avenue, can enjoy **Glorious Gardens of Cuneo**, highlighting the estate's beautiful setting. On July 11, take part in the **Children's Art Fair** (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) while the **Cuneo Classic Car Show** returns on August 1 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Looking ahead to fall, Cuneo will host a Steinway piano concert, a production of "Dracula," and a Haunted Forest Walk. Call 847-362-3042 for details.

Free CareCoach Visits

The Lake Forest Hospital CareCoach visits the Village Hall parking lot each month, offering free cholesterol screenings, immunizations, and more. (The Coach does not treat illness or injury.) The next visits are 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on **June 17, July 15, and August 12**. Call the Village Hall (847-367-3700) or the CareCoach (847-535-6709), or go to www.lakeforesthospital.com.

Project Tips

If you're involved in a summer home or yard project, check www.vernonhills.org (and click "Download Forms") for information on resources, permits, etc. Building specialists are also available by calling 847-367-3704. And don't forget to dial before you dig in your yard — call JULIE at 800-892-0123 first for free (and required) marking of underground utilities.

Garage Sales

Garage sales require a permit, which is free from the Village Hall. For assistance, call 847-367-3700.

Special Thanks...

A final farewell and thank you to the Vernon Hills Symphony. More than 50 local musicians worked with Director Jeremy Marino, Assistant Director Eric Garcia, and Chairman Lisa Bordo. Thank you to this dedicated group, which is disbanding due to Village budget constraints.

Junior Golf Program

The Vernon Hills Golf Course will again offer the Junior Golf Program. This series of free clinics is for young residents age 9 to 15 who are interested in learning the fundamentals of course rules and play. Sessions are held on Tuesday (July 13 – August 10) or Thursday nights (July 15 – August 12), from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Space is limited for this extremely popular program. Sign up is first come, first served at the Clubhouse beginning at **7 a.m. on Friday, June 18**. Note that to be fair to all, you may only sign up your own children — "neighborhood" registrations will not be accepted. You may be asked to provide proof of residency. For details, call the Clubhouse at 847-680-9310 or visit the Pro Shop at 291 Evergreen Drive, just south of Route 45.



Play Ball!

Activities are in full swing at the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex. A bonus is the new concession area, which serves up a quick snack whenever games are scheduled at the ball diamond "pinwheel." If you haven't visited, be sure to check out the facility located adjacent to the Arbortheater and Vernon Hills High School.

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Vernon Hills Village Voice

290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

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Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Vernon Hills Village Voice

June/July/August 2004

Please send comments to the Editor:

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Phone: 847-367-3700 • Fax: 847-367-0880
Email: evant@vhills.org

Elected Officials

President Roger Byrne
Trustees Richard Cashman, Richard Duros, Cindy Hebda,
Thom Koch, Michael Marquardt, and Barbara Williams
Clerk Jeanne Schwartz

Contact Information

Fire 911 (Non-emergency – 367-5511)
Police 911 (Non-emergency – 362-4449)
Mark Fleischhauer, Police Chief: 847-247-4880

Village Hall 847-367-3700
Michael Allison, Village Manager: 847-918-3540
Linda Pelletier, Deputy Village Clerk: 847-918-3572
Karen Brooks, Human Resources: 847-918-3542

Public Works 847-367-3726
Edward Laudenslager, Director: 847-680-2260

Community Dev. 847-367-3700
John Kalmar, Assist. Village Manager: 847-918-3550

Building Div. 847-367-3704
Vernon Gerth, Building Commissioner: 847-918-3548

Engineering Div. 847-918-3565
David Brown, Village Engineer: 847-918-3544

Cable Studio 847-918-3560 TDD 847-918-3597
Main Fax 847-367-0880 Internet www.vernonhills.org

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in access to governmental services and programs. For assistance, call the Village's ADA Coordinator at 367-3700. Printed on recycled paper.



Tree Sale a Sell Out

Residents really responded to this year's Arbor Day Tree Sale. In fact, all 200 trees were purchased well before the May 8th pick up day at the Public Works Facility. Since the sale began more than a decade ago, it's estimated that more than 1600 trees have been planted around town. This is just one reason Vernon Hills has once again earned Tree City USA status from the Arbor Day Foundation.